

















# No reward for poll fraud

## New Army chief denies link to Garci 'conspiracy'

By Dona Pazibugan

INCOMING Army chief Maj. Gen. Hermenegildo Espenson yesterday defended himself from allegations that his promotion was a reward for his role in the supposed rigging of last year's election in favor of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Espenson said he submitted a sworn affidavit to a military fact-finding board on Friday, denying he was involved in a poll fraud conspiracy.

Espenson will formally take over today as the 47th chief of the 75,000-strong Army, replacing Lt. Gen. Genaro Senga, who has assumed the post of AFP Chief of Staff.

"I went there and submitted my affidavit without being invited," said Espenson, current chief of the elite AFP Special Operations Command (SoCom).

"I categorically denied talking to that man, whoever he is," he added, referring to former Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcilano.

Espenson and three other military generals were mentioned in the alleged wiretapped phone conversations between Garcilano and President Macapagal-Arroyo during the vote counting.



ESPENON

Officers Union new generation (YOUNG) denounced Espenson's as Army chief as a "mockery and an insult" to professional officers.

In a statement signed by its spokesperson, who goes by the name of "Lt. Col. Arsenio Alcantara," the YOUNG said Espenson's promotion would "further widen the crack of horizontal division and mistrust" in the military.

"Despite his involvement in last year's massive election fraud, he was not investigated, relieved [or] suspended. Worse, the commander in chief even rewarded him with a position most sought by Army men," the YOUNG said.

Espenson's appointment as Army chief could help his chances of later becoming AFP chief of staff.

Senga and his immediate predecessor, retired Gen. Elnor Alas, were Army chiefs before they were appointed to the military's top post.

### No dealings with Gard

A two-man fact-finding board headed by AFP Inspector General Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga is expected to question not only the senior officials mentioned in the "Hillo Gard" tapes but other officials and men involved in the military's 2003 HORN (honour, order and peaceful elections).

The other generals mentioned in the tapes are retired Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamiko, former chief of the Southern Command (SouthCom); Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacoen, chief of the Army's 1st Infantry Division; and Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, deputy TMA superintendent.

Kyamiko is set to testify before the board today. Habacoen testified last Saturday.

"He denied any dealings with Garcilano," said Lt. Cmdr. Earl Ilwan Pabalan, AFP public information deputy chief.

Gudani has also submitted an affidavit to the board and is expected to testify in the next few days.

On Sunday, a group calling itself the Young

### THE DAILY GOSPEL



Wednesday, August 17, 2005  
20th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jdg 9:6-15  
Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

This story thrown light on the kingdom of heaven. A landowner went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the workers a salary of a silver coin for the day, and sent them to his vineyard.

He went out again at about nine in the morning, and seeing others idle in the square, he said to them: "You, too, go to my vineyard and I will pay you what is just." So they went.

The owner went out at midday and again at three in the afternoon, and he did the same. Finally he went out at the last working hour—it was the eleventh—and he saw others standing there. So he said to them: "Why do you stay idle the whole day?" They answered: "Because no one has hired us." The master said: "Go and work in my vineyard."

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager: "Call the workers and pay them their wage, beginning with the last and ending with the first." Those who had come to work at the eleventh hour earned up and were given a denarius each (a silver coin). When it was the turn of the first, they thought they would receive more. But they, too, received a denarius each. So, on receiving it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

They said: "These last hardly worked an hour, yet you have treated them the same as us who have endured the day's burden and heat." The owner said to one of them: "Friend, I have not been unjust to you. Did we not agree on a denarius a day? So take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last the same as I give to you. Don't I have the right to do as I please with my money? Why are you envious when I am kind?"

So will it be: the last will be first, the first will be last.

#### Commentary

One of Jesus' original parables: the vineyard owner (the Father) who goes out to hire workers for his vineyard (to pick the harvest to make wine). The first group has a contract in justice for a daily wage: the usual and they know they will work, and so and have dignity their day. Then four more times he comes out and chooses more, until at the end, with just an hour to go, he sends still more out. But at the end of the day everyone gets paid the same!! What's going on here? And those who worked hardest and longest are made to wait on those who worked the least! And those from the beginning are angry and won't deal with the foreman (Jesus) and go back to the owner—claiming injustice. But God's justice is just this: that all are given hope, salvation, life for the day (what we pray for in the Our Father) and that all deserve, from the richest to the poorest, to the healthy to the sick, all are human beings, all are the beloved children of God. We should be grateful to know (if we care early) that we know and have the honor of working for the wine of the kingdom and have pay for those who come late and have missed so much. Who are we? Do we like, or love this God of the Jews, the last, who puts us all on the same footing? Or are we angry, warning God to treat us differently than them?

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**TENNIS:** Western Financial Masters; 7:30 a.m. (7-8 p.m.) and tomorrow at 2:30 a.m.; STAR Sports—Check out the first and second rounds from Cincinnati.

**FOOTBALL:** 2006 World Cup Qualifier; 7 p.m.; STAR Sports—Korea takes on Saudi Arabia for a ticket to Germany.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



Compiled by L. Mangione

WEDNESDAY,  
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



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# SPORTS

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Editor  
Teddyvic S. Melendres

## 'Lefty' does it right



**PHIL** Mickelson shows the Wanamaker trophy after winning the 75th PGA Championship at Baltusrol.

## Mickelson birdies last hole, nails PGA Championship

**SPRINGFIELD, New Jersey**—Phil Mickelson delivered another dramatic finish in a major on Monday, flopping a chip out of deep rough to 2 feet for a birdie on the final hole and a one-shot victory in the PGA Championship.

The putt wasn't nearly as long as his 16-footer to win the Masters—his first major—but yes, and there was no need to jump for joy this time.

Still, it was a sweet conclusion to a major championship season that had gone sour until he put together his best golf of the summer stretched over five days at Baltusrol by a storm-delayed final round.

It was the first Monday finish at the PGA Championship in 19 years. And not since 1986 at Inverness had a player from the last group won with a birdie on the 72nd hole at the final major.

Bob Twy got his by holing a bunker shot to deny Greg Norman. Mickelson's chip from about 50 feet wasn't nearly dramatic, but it was no less effective.

Steve Elkington, then Thomas Bjorn, came to the 354-yard closing hole with a chance to make birdie. Elkington grazed the left edge of the cup from 30 feet. Bjorn pulled his second shot into the left bunker and blasted to 20 feet, his putt

looking good all the way until it caught the back edge of the cup and spun out.

Mickelson was 247 yards away, 30 yards behind the plaque in the clubhouse that commemorated the 1-iron Jack Nicklaus hit to the green in 1967 to win the US Open. He bopped it twice with his 4-wood for luck, but the shot came up short in grass that covered the tops of his shoes.

The flop came out perfect, and Mickelson raised his arms and lightly pamped his flat feet. The final putt was merely a tap-in, giving Lefty another year with a major trophy.

"It was a shot that I struggled with out of the rough this week," Mickelson said. "I tried to remember some of the shots I hit as a kid in my backyard. I hit it aggressively and the ball popped up nicely and it rolled smoothly."

Mickelson closed with a 2-over 72, playing the final four holes Monday morning at even par.

LEFTY 13



# The WORLD

Editor: Lawrence B. Givens

## Israel issues ultimatum to settlers in Gaza Strip

**NETE DODGALIM**, Gaza Strip—Israel gave thousands of Jews still in the Gaza Strip a last chance on Tuesday to leave or face forcible removal in the first uprooting of Jewish settlements on land Israel plans to use for a state.

"The only way is out," Israel told, through announcements in news bulletins. Ariel Sharon's of- fice, told reporters after Israeli army officers with 40-hour visas, then hurriedly confronted and con- sidered shouting and tearful ac- tions on the scene.

"All of them will be in Israel," said Sharon. "We will be in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday night, with a vehicle parked with Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip, ready to take them to Israel."

In a related address, Sharon, seen the settlers' demands, said Gaza's 8,200 Jewish settlers had about their own but also under

stood the plight of 1.4 million Palestinians in the coastal strip.

"We cannot hold on to Gaza forever. More than a million Palestinians live there and inside their borders with each other. They live in overcrowded conditions in refugee camps, in poverty and hunger, in hundreds of rising tented cities on top of the Jordan," Sharon said in the live national address.

Sharon's message to the 4,000 settlers in all 21 settlements in Gaza and one of 120 in the West Bank area was clear: no more settlements on land Israel plans to "transfer" from conflict with

the Palestinians.

"This plan will be good for Israel in the long run," he said.

He also indicated that Israel was to receive on land sites.

The Israeli army will be deployed along defensive lines behind the settlements, Sharon said.

Sharon, whose plan is close to having majority support in Israeli parliament, said Israel was prepared to make peace but to threatened Palestinians with Is- rael's hardest response ever should they attack over the set- tlers' last decision.

In West Bank, two settle- ments—Gaza and Kadim—be- come the first to be targeted, in army spokeswoman said. Most of the residents had already left be- fore the deadline today.

The army has yet to say in what order it will evacuate dis- seminated settlements starting

early on Wednesday.

Israel's Haaretz newspaper quoted an unidentified senior army officer as saying the set- tlers hoped to complete the evac- uation within 10 days, ahead of a Sept. 4 target date.

The Israeli army intends to strip the Gaza police in Febru- ary, when the last troops come out.

Palestinian militants claim the withdrawal as a victory and is ready to oppose it as a neces- sary condition to return, while others regard it as a catalyst for re- sistance to Israel.

In the larger Gaza settlement, Netiv Be'er, settlers and Israeli soldiers and their families on Monday to strip and clear from demolishing the entire settlement, including what has been said will be the end of 34 years of occupying the coastal strip. Another



## Plane with 152 on board crashes in Venezuela

**CARACAS, Venezuela**—A passenger plane crashed in remote western Venezuela with 152 passengers aboard early Tuesday as aviation officials said it was unclear whether anyone survived.

The West Caribbean Airways plane was headed from Panama to Maricao before down when its pilot reported engine trouble in the Caracas airport, said Francisco Ruiz, president of the National Aviation In- stitute.

Airport authorities had radio contact with the plane last in the area of

Maricao, in the western part of Lake, he said.

"Residents in the area said they heard an explosion," Ruiz said. Air traffic teams are working to find the crash site now by air and by land.

He said the pilot reported trouble with both engines in the Caracas air control tower just after 3 a.m. (0700 GMT), and authorities last contact with the plane roughly 10 minutes later.

The plane had been observed by towers, and 152 passengers were listed on

the flight plan. Ruiz said it wasn't immediately clear how many were seriously injured.

The plane was believed to have gone down between two dams in the remote area.

West Caribbean Airways, a Colombian airline, began service in 1998.

In March, a twin-engine plane sponsored by the same airline crashed during takeoff from the Colombian island of Old Port, downing, killing eight people and injuring the other six passengers.

A COLLAPSED house is seen in Kawa, south of Tokyo, after a strong earthquake on Aug. 16. An elderly woman was rescued from the house.

## 7.2 quake hits Japan, triggering tsunami, collapsing buildings

**YOKO—A powerful magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck northeastern Japan on Tuesday, triggering a small tsunami and shaking skyscrapers in its wake in Tokyo, 300 km to the south. At least 12 people were injured and 10 killed.**

The end of another picnic in the community of Sendai occurred, leaving 17 people, Miyagi prefectural police spokesman Kazumasa Arai said, leaving 10 people injured and 19 missing, others were hurt by falling rocks and crumbling roofs.

TV news footage showed a collapsed house inside Tokyo and landslides in the quake-hit area. A Osaka police spokesman said an 18-car motorcade was stopped for hours.

National broadcaster NHK said about seven preliminary reports of 12 people injured. Officials were still relaying figures, but police in Miyagi prefecture, which included the focus of the quake, said only confirmed injuries, while seismologist Tetsuya Fukushima predicted that first.

"The horizontal shaking was strong, as much as the 1.6-ton quake's intense shaking," said Masami Ochiai, an official with Miyagi Prefecture, which includes Sendai.

The quake knocked one power line down. 17,000 households, water-supplyed, train services in northern Japan were suspended and flights were completely grounded at Tokyo's Narita airport. Miyagi Prefecture's railway is closed.

The quake struck at around 11:40 a.m. (10:40 GMT) and was measured 30 km below the surface five about 60 km off the coast of Miyagi, the Meteorological Agency said. The 10 km measured quake hit the nearby coast directly, causing the nearby exposed land damage from the waves.

The quake was followed by at least four aftershocks and vibrations of quakes of up to magnitude 2.5 could follow, the agency said.

In 1993, a magnitude 7.2 quake in the western part of Japan killed 6,400 people. The quake and

aftershocks because of Japan's quake helped from the damage that large loss occurred had a large number under a city.

Authorities in Miyagi were still assessing damage to the city.

The quake, the capital of Miyagi, is about 300 km northwest of Tokyo. A nuclear power plant in the long-term construction of Fukushima was not affected by the earthquake, the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, rising the plant's operation. Another plant in Chugai is 100 km from the quake and is not being checked by damage, some reports said.

A 73-year-old nursing worker hit by a falling stone tower, and was injured near last night but still suffered no more in a hospital, Fukushima, police spokesman Kazuo Ochiai said. A 7-year-old child was injured by falling rocks in the town of Ito, according to local official Miyazaki Hiroaki.

Japan sits in the position of two tectonic plates and is one of the world's most quake-prone regions.

## Iraq misses constitution deadline

**BAIDUQ—Iraq missed a constitutional deadline to draft a new constitution, but parliament passed a new law to extend the deadline to the end of the year, leaving the new constitution to the end of the year.**

"I opposed the treaty of Iraq's constitution and opposition forces wish to make something to use through continued negotiation and dialogue," President George W. Bush said.

"This effort is a major step in democracy and it is a step that will lead to a new constitution," the president said in a statement.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was also upbeat about the new draft constitution, which she said would be a "major step" in the process of building a new Iraq.

The draft is a heavily edited version of the Iraqi constitution, which was drafted by the Iraqi National Assembly in 2002. It was approved by the Iraqi National Assembly in 2002, but the Iraqi National Assembly has not yet approved it.

"We are not going to give up on the draft," the president said. "We are not going to give up on the draft." The president said that the draft is a "major step" in the process of building a new Iraq.

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Iraq's 275-member parliament was to approve the new constitution by the end of the year, but the Iraqi National Assembly has not yet approved it.

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## Indonesta, Aceh rebels peace deal failed

**BAHARU—The United Nations has rejected the Indonesian government's proposal to sign an agreement with the rebels of the Indonesian Islamic Movement (IM) in Aceh. The rebels have rejected the proposal, saying they want to see the rebels' demands met. The rebels have rejected the proposal, saying they want to see the rebels' demands met. The rebels have rejected the proposal, saying they want to see the rebels' demands met.**

## 30 die in Guatemala prison clashes

**GUATEMALA CITY—Thirty people died in clashes between police and inmates at the Guatemala City prison, including 20 inmates. The police said that the inmates were attacking the police. The police said that the inmates were attacking the police. The police said that the inmates were attacking the police.**

## Italy arrests 141 terror suspects

**ROME—Italy's authorities have arrested 141 people linked to the Italian Red Brigades. The arrests were part of a major operation to dismantle the group. The arrests were part of a major operation to dismantle the group. The arrests were part of a major operation to dismantle the group.**

## Sri Lanka cremates slain minister

**COLOMBO—The Sri Lankan government has cremated the slain Minister of Health, Dr. Mahipala Jayasinghe. The cremation was held in a public ceremony. The cremation was held in a public ceremony. The cremation was held in a public ceremony.**

## California man to be deported

**LOS ANGELES—A Mexican man, a California resident, is to be deported to Mexico. The man was arrested on charges of illegal entry. The man was arrested on charges of illegal entry. The man was arrested on charges of illegal entry.**













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## Army insists Indon terror bomber is dead

**OSCE** BEIRUT, Lebanon, August 16—The military prosecutor's office was confident that the man charged with killing 120 in 2002, Megawati's last week, was dead, an Indonesian military spokesman said.

In 2002, the Indonesian military's spokesman said the army's kill list included the man charged with killing 120 in 2002, Megawati's last week, was dead, an Indonesian military spokesman said.

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**CHILD'S PLAY**  
 Children play in a boat in a river, near a beach in Pangasinan, Philippines.

## 1,200 US troops arrive for war games

**SUBIC BAY FREEPORT**—Five American vessels carrying more than 1,200 American sailors docked at the Alava Pier here on Tuesday for a new round of marine exercises with their Filipino counterparts.

The American sailors will conduct the 12th annual Subic Bay Freeport exercises, which will last for two weeks, from August 17 to August 31, 2005.

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Philippine Fleet commander, said with the help of the US Navy, "we are starting to see the beginning of our equipment."

He said the exercise was to improve regional cooperation between the US and the Philippines and to strengthen bilateral ties.

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**AMG 141** Target Borneo playfully pointed with a playing trophy and shell are displayed to mark the 25th anniversary of the US Navy's Coast military exercises with other Asian countries.

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## British tourist sues fisherman for rape

**PURBOHONGKONG CITY**—A British tourist who filed a rape suit against a fisherman who she says raped her.

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# Obet feels no rancor against Ramirez, et al

## IN HUDDLE



Obet Ramirez

**FORER** Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) President Obet Ramirez says he has no personal animosity toward the athletes implicated in the 1996 Atlanta Olympic scandal.

Ramirez said he was not involved in the scandal and that he was not involved in the investigation. He said he was not involved in the investigation and that he was not involved in the investigation.

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# Air21, Washington agree to 3-year deal

By Jennifer P. Papp

**THE AIR21** Olympic team manager and Washington's Air21 team have agreed to a three-year deal, according to a report from the Washington Post.

## PBA strikes 10 rookies off free agent list

**THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association (PBA)** has struck 10 rookies off its free agent list, according to a report from the Washington Post.

By Jennifer P. Papp



Manotoc (left) and Cebu (right) during the recent MVP Basketball Cup.

# Asuncion's stun Canadian pair

**ASUNCION, Colombia**—The Philippine National Team defeated the Canadian pair in a match during the recent MVP Basketball Cup.

By Jennifer P. Papp

## Manotoc tees off in Active Mid-Am tilt

**LOS ANGELES**—The Philippine National Team defeated the Canadian pair in a match during the recent MVP Basketball Cup.

By Jennifer P. Papp

## Cebu, Cdo pace n'l women's football

**CEBU** and Cebu City are the two fastest growing cities in the Philippines, according to a report from the Washington Post.

By Jennifer P. Papp

## 'Lefty' does it right

**THE JAVANES** 'Lefty' does it right, according to a report from the Washington Post.

By Jennifer P. Papp

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## 4TH WEEK

**AMAZING! \$164M in 27 DAYS**  
GENERATING THE BEST OVERALL WEEKEND GROSS OF ANY FILM THIS YEAR IN AMERICA!

**OWEN WILSON VINCE VAUGHN**  
**RACHEL McADAMS**



**Still the Hit**  
**Movie in America**  
**after 4 weeks!**  
**WEDDING CRASHERS**

## 'THE GREAT RAID' GETS GREAT REVIEWS FROM AMERICA'S TOP FILM CRITICS



**Shawnee on limited release in only 919 theaters, the film "The Great Raid" generated \$3.4M for a weekend \$6,120 average per theater. The film will expand to 3,800 theaters and open wide in two weeks.**

America's top film critic **Shawnee** on limited release.

**Roger Hart of Chicago Times says:** "The Great Raid" has the look and feel of a good war movie. It is made mainly with conviction that the story itself is the point and not the flashy graphics. The film is unique in giving full credit to the Filipino fighters who joined the struggle and made the local logistics possible. The film is not by Capt. Ron Pajala (Cesar Montano), a Filipino actor who steps into the Hollywood mold and adds to its authenticity and sense of mission."

**Chicago Tribune's Michael Epstein:** "Benjamin Bratt plays singer-activist L.L. Cool J. Henry Bland with magnificent grace, lending scenes with confidence and taking great pride in his role. ... But the American actor's going all-in at these side as Filipino guerrilla and by Capt. Ron Pajala, played by Cesar Montano—a Filipino actor who steps into the Hollywood mold and adds to its authenticity and sense of mission."

**Robert Koster of Variety writes:** "Cesar Montano is a remarkable find. He is a Filipino actor who steps into the Hollywood mold and adds to its authenticity and sense of mission."

**30 entries in Las Vegas derby**  
The 30th Las Vegas Derby is set for August 15, 1998, at the Las Vegas Derby.

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**AT 10:00 PM**

**AT 10:00 PM**

**AT 10:00 PM**











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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER  
 AUGUST 17, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

# BUSINESS

Read us your favorite source for news and analysis on the Philippines and the world.

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 Assistant Editor: Corrie S. Narvasa

**The Only**  
 TOSHIBA  
 PHILIPPINE  
 AUGUST 17, 2005

# Budget deficit stays below target

## Even as Customs, BIR miss goals

By Michelle C. Reyes

THE NATIONAL government continued to perform better than its fiscal targets, with its budget deficit for the first seven months of the year staying way below the ceiling for the period.

The Department of Finance's mid-year report for the January-to-July period saw the P68.37 billion in revenues and the P53.91 billion in expenditures, for a deficit of P14.46 billion.

The budget gap for the first seven months trailed from the P68.37 billion in revenues and the P53.91 billion in expenditures, for a deficit of P14.46 billion, said lower than the P17.66 billion official ceiling for the month.

The budget gap was kept below target despite the shortfall in revenue collection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and of Customs—the government's two main revenue sources. The DOF and collections from other revenue sources, such as tax and charges collected by various line agencies, compensated for the weak performance of the two agencies.

But there said the DOF would still surely increase the collection of the two agencies to ensure they do not fall below the target for the month.



THE BITTER dispute between the foreign and local partners subsiding Philippine Supermarkets has been settled following the takeover of the Filipino group.

## Local partner completes takeover of PriceSmart

By Raul G. Domingo

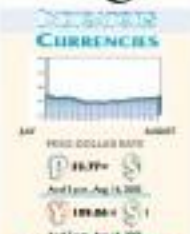
THE PHILIPPINE local PriceSmart warehouse shopping chain is now all Philippine-owned. A local partner company agreed to transfer its 50 percent stake to its Filipino counterpart last Friday.

William Cho, head of the firm S.C. Cho that holds 50 percent of PMST Philippines, said in a briefing yesterday the agreement was meant to settle disagreements over PMST's business plan that led to litigation between him and the firm's US partner.

opening the local retail chain in Manila. Cho said part of the deal was to backhandedly drop all charges filed in US and Philippine courts.

The dispute arose when S.C. Cho questioned PMST's losses incurred in 2004 and alleged that PriceSmart Inc. was appropriating PMST's funds by overpricing supplies, hardware and equipment used in the stores.

In June, the California-based firm sued Cho in US court for "legal claims."



**STOCK MARKET**  
 Shares close 0.62% lower

SEATTLE (AP)—Stocks fell as investors sold shares in blue chips due to concerns that higher oil prices would weaken economic demand and hurt profits, analysts said.

They said there were also concerns that the government may not fully implement a much-improved value-added tax (VAT) system this year, which has been expected by the Supreme Court, despite the court's earlier ruling.

The composite index slipped 10.41 points to 1,982.57 after trading between 1,988.27 and 2,005.04. Volume amounted to 22.5 million shares and PSEI 8 million.

Electronic lead money 47 of 107, while 11 stocks ended unchanged.

The poor stock market trading yesterday, AP said, if it could market trading yesterday, AP said.

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

**Farm output slows down** / 102

**Victoria's secrets** / 103

**RP posts \$1.99-B BOP surplus** / 104

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# Farm output growth slows down

By Christine A. Gaylan

A DISBURSED drought slowed the country's agricultural output growth in the first semester to 1.35 percent from a year earlier, the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics said.

BOA director Romeo Ibaño said the first semester growth was 30 percent lower than the

5.40-percent growth registered in the first semester of last year. Ibaño said the slowdown was due to the severe El Niño drought that inflicted serious damage to various crops such as coconuts, sugarcane, tobacco, guava and citrus.

He said planting was delayed in major production areas in Luzon and the expanded the low production output in Cagayan

Valley and the entire Region 2, Region 3, Mindoro, Marikina, Marikina and Bulacan, as well as in the production area in Region 1 and 11 in Mindanao.

The crop with output, which accounts for 47 percent of the total agricultural output, reported gains in the production of rice, coconuts, tobacco, sugarcane, cotton and corn, the BOA report further

indicated.

The poultry sub-sector showed a 4.6-percent growth during the period while swine rose by 8 percent to P40.4 billion.

The fishery sector recorded a 3.12-percent growth in the first semester.

Livestock production, which accounted for 13.53 percent of



THE COUNTRY'S rice output declined slightly less in the first semester this year due mainly to natural calamities.

## Budget

House passes

the remaining part of the 2006 law. The vote was 10-9 to reject the 2006 law and the 2005 law. The 2005 law is getting a daily report from the committee so that it will know whether or not it is in the right direction," the committee said in a statement.

The 2005 law collected P100.77 billion in the first seven months, P11.25 billion short of its target of P112 billion. The 2005 law collected only P70.11 billion, or P41.67 billion lower than its target of P111.78 billion.

Ibaño stressed that despite the national government's increasing fiscal performance as of July, the 2005 law would still require push for the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law which remains expected by the Supreme Court.

The House chief said the national government could achieve its target of reducing the deficit to only P130 billion this year from P411 billion last year even without the 2005 law. The 2005 law would help government to achieve the aim of a new deficit which would provide positive results like lower borrowing cost and the entry of new investments.

"I would like to have more cash, that is why we are trying to pass the 2005 law," Ibaño added.

Ibaño said the 2005 law is expected to be passed by the end of the year. The 2005 law would create more problems for the country, as it is not a law. The 2005 law would create more problems for the country, as it is not a law. The 2005 law would create more problems for the country, as it is not a law.

The 2005 law was a worst case in implementing the law. The 2005 law was a worst case in implementing the law. The 2005 law was a worst case in implementing the law.

Since the national government agencies were doing their best to reduce the impact of high oil prices, the Supreme Court of Trade and Industry was already monitoring the impact of high oil prices on the economy and has tried to work with local government units to establish price coordinating committees.

The 2005 law was a worst case in implementing the law. The 2005 law was a worst case in implementing the law. The 2005 law was a worst case in implementing the law.

# WARNING!

## You have 30 days from today to legalize your software



Statistics show that 71% of PC software being used in the Philippines in 2004 was illegal.\* Losses due to piracy amounted to P 3.7 billion last year, depriving the country of additional revenues and new job opportunities. This is a major blow to the development of the local Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector and has posed a threat to the country's economy.

### OPLAN CRACKDOWN

Various government agencies and private sector representatives have joined hands to stop the prevalence of software piracy among businesses.

All businesses engaged in the use or distribution of illegal software are warned - you have 30 days to legalize your unlicensed software and to stop selling pirated software.

### NATIONWIDE CRACKDOWN STARTS SEPTEMBER 16

Starting September 16, the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team will begin a series of raids against companies that continue to use, sell or distribute unlicensed software. Those found guilty of violating the Intellectual Property Code or the Optical Media Act may face imprisonment of up to nine years.\*\*

**ACT NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!**

\* IPIA-ISC Global Software Piracy Study  
\*\* Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines, RA 8293 and Optical Media Act (RA 8292)



National Bureau of Investigation



Optical Media Board



Philippine National Police









# BUSINESS

P1 BILLION A YEAR

## Palace seen granting bigger export promo budget

By Ronald P. Durañgo

Mobilizing is expected to increase the government's budget for the export promotion to an effort to push up the local industry's annual performance, the Export Development Council president said.

EDC, a joint body of government agencies and private groups that held pre-congress meetings yesterday noted that income from export grew by only 3.3 percent in the last half, far below the target of

10 percent for this year.

EDC vice chair Sergio Osmo said it said the warning stems from an urgent the need for a bigger budget for export promotion, particularly since the country was expanding trade with fast and South Asian economies.

According to EDC, officials, the Department of Trade and Industry's international trade group needs at least P1 billion a year to counter the effects of tightening countries in promoting

their new export industries.

Orin Lito, who is also president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, said that in the past five years, the government's export promotion arm has spent P300 million a year.

Improving value, regular office operations and other expenses, the group must spend the trade mission, international trade fairs and trade delegations is less than the peak level of a year, he said.

Other issues tackled in the EDC meeting was the need for a special credit facility for small and medium exporters.

They said they would need about P10 billion in trading credit to increase production and shipment of goods and meet the target of 100 billion in 2006.

Also, the EDC chair said the new export strategy of aggressive promotion needed P1 billion in funds a year for the three years covered by the Philippine Export

Development Plan.

President for under the Export Development Act of 1996, the EDC which is a joint body of government agencies, is now the blueprint for the export industry in three-year periods.

The latest plan aims at achieving 847 billion in revenues in 2005 and growth rates of 18 percent yearly in 2006 and 2007.

In yesterday's meeting, respondents also called for the government to address the need to cut up to the processing of documents.

particular, those related to environmental documents.

Specific issues that were tackled included the local Customs industry's call for a resolution of the logging ban policy that has resulted in a shortage of and increase in prices of lumber products.

Another was the wish of the semiconductor and electronics industries of the Philippines to be able to buy electronic devices from government to lower their expenses.

## Power, fuel should stay VAT-exempt, solon says

By Margalit, Jr.

LASAO and House Rep. Miguel Zubizarreta said power and fuel should not be covered by the expanded value-added tax law.

Submitters, who share the House committee on energy said that instead of deferring the implementation of the VAT on power and fuel, those two sectors should just be carved out from the list of items to be covered by VAT.

"If you add me, the VAT on energy and oil should be totally repealed. The VAT on energy and oil was a mistake from the beginning," he said.

Commerce and GE Power Works chief Rod Corpuz, on the other hand, warned lawmakers to amend the expanded VAT law and reduce the tax rate charged on the power and fuel sectors from 10 percent to 5 percent, 2.5 percent.

He explained that in this way all the sectors identified in the expanded VAT law would still be exempt with the required exemption rate, without placing too much burden on the power and oil sectors.

The government has admitted that the country was in the midst of an oil crisis, with international prices soaring to unprecedented highs almost every day.

Department of Energy data showed that the regional benchmark Indus crude jumped to an Aug. 11 average of \$55.77 a barrel from the July average of \$52.87 a barrel.

Its highest price was recorded last Friday at \$57.80 a barrel.

The price of subsea gasoline, based on the index of three Singapore (SGS) benchmark, for subsea gasoline products, rose since to an average of \$70.37 a barrel in the last 10 days of August, after skyrocketing to a record high of \$73.86 a barrel in late July.

## Lifting of import tariffs on spare parts urged

By Christine S. Nolasco

TRANSPORT groups have asked the transport administration to ease their burden by lifting import tariffs as well as taxes on alternative fuels and spare parts.

These measures, according to transport leaders, would mitigate the impact of rising fuel prices and could even—over the long run—pay for themselves.

Transport groups said they might press for another P2 increase that would raise the excise taxes on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for the first 4 kilometers, while others are planning to ask for a P20 hike in their current P34 bag discount on diesel and gasoline for P34 10000000.

A tax group has asked the energy department to help it secure an exemption from the excise tax of P1.03 a liter on diesel and gasoline.

This is to encourage their members to convert their fleet to LPG from gasoline, said long-hauling president of the Philippine National Truck Operators Association.

Another group sought the temporary lifting of import tariffs and duties of 5 to 20 percent on spare parts and wheels.

Agreeing that, however, for the transport groups, said they also wanted the spare parts to be exempt from the 10 percent VAT.

"The government lifted the import tariffs and duties on the spare parts before the May 2004 election. We hope they can do it again to help ease the plight of the transport groups," said Nolasco.

Nolasco said his group had likewise tried to secure other incentives for tax areas that will be exempt from the 10 percent VAT on the sale of vehicles.



# Drop in fuel prices boost Asia markets

SENGAPORE—The dollar rose and Tokyo shares reached a seven-year high on Tuesday as rising oil and economic data, lower oil prices and healthy earnings statements lifted Asian prices around Asia.

Reversing months of price-limited energy stocks lower and helped send Hong Kong's Hang Seng down 0.2 percent and Nikkei's index of equities down 0.1 percent.

But with help from a stronger Wall Street, other Asian markets tracked last week's levels, and Japan's Nikkei in London was off by the FTSE 100, CAC 40 and DAX indices between 0.1 and 0.3 percent higher.

The Nikkei average fell in a four-year high to less than a week, and closed up 0.1 percent. From Asia, Asian shares helped push the yield in New York's 10-year Treasury government bond to 4.5 percent high.

"The market is benefiting from gains in Wall Street and Asian shares, and the fall in oil prices," said Charles Zuk, an analyst at Credit Suisse in New York. "Investors (about the economy) are not sure the market is looking strong."

Index stocks rose in their early morning trading that ended with a slight gain and in a four-year high to less than a week.

In Australia, stronger-than-expected earnings from the world's biggest dairy registry



INVESTORS are in the oil futures pit at the New York Mercantile Exchange in New York City. World oil prices dropped today after reaching historic peaks in 2004.

firm, Commodity, and steel, and the U.S. dollar, and the Asian index reached a record, rising up 0.5 percent.

Investor's Street Times rose 0.3 percent and Japan's benchmark index rose 0.1 percent.

U.S. stocks closed higher. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.1 percent and the Nasdaq Composite index rose 0.3 percent.

The dollar rose against the euro and the yen as investors

worried it was covering debt.

The United States entered \$71.2 billion in foreign capital in June, the largest net inflow in 13 months since February.

The U.S. Treasury International Capital report showed the U.S. trade deficit widened to \$16.8 billion in June—the third largest in record—down \$1.4 billion in May. Investors

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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Debita still faces bankruptcy

ATLANTA—Debita's 1-year bid to discharge all of its regional credit-line loans is being rejected by the bankruptcy court. The court's decision to reject Debita's bid to discharge its regional credit-line loans is being rejected by the bankruptcy court. The court's decision to reject Debita's bid to discharge its regional credit-line loans is being rejected by the bankruptcy court.

### China may let foreigners control state bank

BEIJING—China is considering selling control of its state-owned bank to foreign investors for the first time, state reports say Tuesday. The government is considering proposals to sell a major stake in the Shanghai Commercial Bank, a 100-year-old bank based in Shanghai. The bank's assets and liabilities are estimated at \$100 billion. The bank's assets and liabilities are estimated at \$100 billion.

### Open skies seen over China's west

BEIJING—China plans to open its western skies to foreign airlines in a number of international flights in the western part of the country. The government is considering proposals to sell a major stake in the Shanghai Commercial Bank, a 100-year-old bank based in Shanghai. The bank's assets and liabilities are estimated at \$100 billion.

### Local partner completes ...

PHILADELPHIA—The local partner in the construction of the new Philadelphia City Hall has completed the project. The local partner in the construction of the new Philadelphia City Hall has completed the project.

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# LIFE STYLE

Available in a wider Manila newspaper network  
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Editor Chelo Sison-Fernando  
 Chief of Correspondence Pam Ferrer



MANILA Symphony  
 Orchestra

## Rock out at Rockestra!

By Max V. Reyes  
 Staff Contributor

IMAGINE some of today's hottest rock acts backed up by Asia's oldest ensembles. That's Rockestra, a concert that meshes as together the Manila Symphony Orchestra (MSO) with rock bands Image, Gashio, c+p and Link, Twisted Sister,

Sugarfree and Silent Kerosene, etc.

It may be hard to come up with an image of such an arrangement, and you better stop visualizing. It's better to see and hear this ensemble in the flesh.

The International Chinese Guild of MSO and Silent Kerosene, the idea of Rockestra is David after seeing Manila's SAM show, which featured the band playing with an orchestra. "I thought, why couldn't we try this?"

After much deliberation on which

bands could (and whom he'd like) present them to play with MSO, David helped MSO arrange the project. For the bands picked out, which wasn't an easy task. Although MSO features young instrumentalists (the youngest is 18 years old from St. Paul College), most of them are hard-core classical fans. "Some of the MSO people have never even heard of these bands!" David said.

Which didn't seem to fear the bands. He thought of Twisted Sister wouldn't say

anything the orchestra after every song they played during rehearsal, and mention of what bands were close to cancel out hearing MSO's rendition of their own songs. "I wanted to try pure talent again so orchestras they also do," Sugarfree and Gashio/Del Mar said.

"I had this sense of excitement," each 15 years of Image said after hearing MSO play their song. "Now when you think you've heard everything, Rockestra and the MSO come along to surprise you and give you that wonderful sense of discovery."

try!"

"It's like listening to your favorite song with a different kind of approach," David said. "It's a different kind of high. True or not?"

Experience the music on Friday, Aug. 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the full-dress Theater Solano are priced at P100, P300, P500, P115 and P25, and can be bought at TicketWorld at National Bookstore branches, Tower Records, Robinson's, and at the GSP Box Office.



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SAMSUNG P10000P makes rugged camcorder

# New tech delights

By Gary Marcus  
Contributor

THE IBCA, also one of major technology manufacturers featuring recently launched its showcase of high-end consumer products for 2005 at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

The event unveiled a host of top-of-the-line products, including the world's largest Plasma TV, the 50" technological marvel HMDP100, and a new line of slim TV sets that would make most types of traditional-sized TV sets look tiny. There were also some "thinner" products, the latest LCD, 10.1" CRT projectors, the 10.1" Flat TV, a host of new DVD players, the "Maverick" line of high-capacity, 10.1" flat and hard disk-based DVD players and many others.

Samsung also launched its new "Imagine" campaign, unveiling the new "Digital" design, which now-and-then is a combination of the new and the old. The new "Imagine" campaign has a higher-end look, emphasizing a high-quality and a top-of-the-line feel that make it a product that demands the best level of quality and performance from their personal products.

## High-end TVs

Samsung's Plasma TV offers the closest and most vibrant picture you can get. Plasma TVs are a series of the gas plasma cells charged by precise electrical voltage to create a picture, while the existing ones such as 42", 50" and 55" actually are reflective. Plasma TVs for a truly flat color and the picture quality for a, unlike other video products only a thickness of glass.

Plasma, however, has a rather fragile screen, and at the same time it is more costly than LCD. So far, there are no built-in speakers for most plasma sets. Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) TVs are another alternative, with Samsung having four models in the line, from 32" to 55".

Then there are the 10.1" and 10.1" Projection TVs, of which there's a 10.1", 10.1", 10.1" and 10.1". Samsung also offers a "Slim" option in line of its average size TV for smaller and living rooms. The latest high-definition TV (HDTV) offerings have the compact form at affordable prices and with designs similar to the LCD units. These appear themselves from the past by being 21 inches smaller in depth, allowing you to put them in tighter spaces. There's a 22" and a 20" version to choose from.

## Home Theater

If there's one thing that gets high-end, it's having a home theater. Samsung is keeping it close by offering the HTP1200. The system allows for such things as "Dolby Surround Sound," offering 5.1 channels (surround sound) with only a 5.1 channel (surround) system, so "Dolby Surround Sound" (DSS) that allows anyone to experience the same sound as the actual audio setup, regardless of where he or she is seated, the "Live Surround Mode" which lets you enjoy the like 5.1 channel surround sound system, and a "Virtual Surround" feature that provides 5.1 channel surround sound using just one speaker.

PC games will like the "USB Live Play" feature, which allows the home theater system to connect with any gadget that has a USB connection, such as MP3 players, digital cameras and more.

## Musical and mobile multimedia

However, the same music as the same would have to be the rather strangely named "Maverick" line of Camcorders, of which there are two, the HMDP100 and the rugged and, therefore, special HMDP100.

The HMDP100 is a slim, 10.1" (with battery) 720x480 MMSD camera that has more or less frames per second, with 100 optical and 100 digital zoom, with 100x digital zoom as an MP3 player, video recorder, digital still camera and, of course, because it can do all those, as a Data Storage Device (offering 128MB, 512MB or 1GB) and a Webcam.

The HMDP100, which can be being wrapped in a kind of rubbery coating that allows it to be handled more easily, is even thinner a custom (twisted) optical device you can strap to a helmet, your shoulder or even your foot. The idea is to give you freedom, and, as only 100" (which can be in the palm of your hand), riding a bike, roller skating or skateboarding with the same is possible. According to the launch were its new MP3 players and DVD players as well.